

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 2-4 and 9 remain pending. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 1 and 5-8 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the underlying subject matter and claims 2 and 3 are amended to depend from allowable claim 9.

Beginning on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Flach et al* (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,103). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution the claims have been cancelled without prejudice or amended in a manner that renders this rejection moot. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4 and 9 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement and respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance based on the claim amendments provided herein.

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 2-4 and 9 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event the instant application can be placed in even better form, Applicants request that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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